

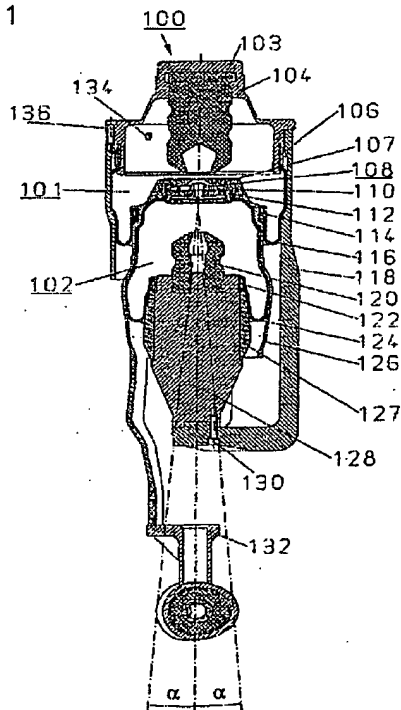
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Serial No. 10/772,524
60,130-2011/04MRA0100REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 1, 15, and 21 have been amended and claims 2, 9, 13, 18, and 20 are cancelled. New claims 32-34 are presented. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 14-17, 19, and 21-34 are pending.

Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 25, and 27-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Behmenburg et al.* (2003/0173723) in view of *Schofield* (4,770,095). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The Examiner admits that *Behmenburg* teaches an intermediate member disposed between the two airbags so they are not in direct contact. The Examiner then contends that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to eliminate part (126) in *Behmenburg* to provide the secondary airbag to roll on the piston airbag merely to reduce the weight and parts of the device. Applicant respectfully traverses this contention as there is absolutely no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to modify *Behmenburg* as proposed by the Examiner. In fact, what the Examiner suggests is obvious would utterly destroy the operation of the *Behmenburg* device.

Fig. 1



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[0041] An upper bell 118 is mounted on the cover 104 with one or several screws 136. The connection can, however, also be welded or pressed or produced with another usual connection technique. The lower end of the upper flexible member 116 of the first air spring 101 is tightly connected via a clamp ring 114 to a cover 107 and/or a lower bell 126 while forming a rolling lobe. The bell 126 is connected in its lower area, which is extended at one end, to a mounting element 132. The mounting element 132 of FIGS. 1 and 2 is configured as a mounting lug. However, any other known configuration of a mounting element can be used. The connection of the cover 107 or the lower bell 126 to the mounting element 132 can be produced with a hook-shaped element or two symmetrically arranged hook-shaped elements or another usual connecting technique. The outer shape of the lower bell 126 predetermines the roll-off contour of the upper flexible member 116 of the first air spring 101 and the inner shape, independently from the outer shape, predetermines the outer guide contour of the lower flexible member 124 of the second air spring 102.

Should the lower bell 126 be eliminated as proposed by the Examiner, the entire mounting element 132 would also be eliminated. By so eliminating bell 126 and mounting element 132, the suspension and damping arrangement 100 would be destroyed as the suspension and damping arrangement 100 could no longer be mounted between two components as required of any such arrangement. It is improper to modify the base reference in such a way that it ruins the goal or function of the base reference. The Examiner's proposed modification would do so and simply cannot be sustained.

Furthermore, as each of the remaining 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections utilize *Behmenburg* as so modified to improperly eliminate the bell 126 and mounting element 132 each of these rejections likewise fail for at least the reason discussed above.

New claims 32-34 recite further features of the present invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

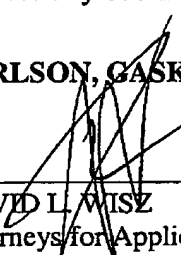
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Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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